

Maryland State Board of Victim Services Meeting
Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Wednesday, April 19, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Participating Members:

Heather Amador for Interim Acting Executive Director Veronica Moulis, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services
Anne Bean, Cecil County Department of Community Services
Tiffany Bright for Attorney General Anthony G. Brown
Jessica Dickerson, Department of Juvenile Services
Laurie Kimbles for Sheriff Gary Hofmann, Queen Anne's County Sheriff
Alonzo Robertson, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center
David Shultie for Lou Gieszl, Administrative Office of the Courts
Lisa Spicknall-Horner, Donate Life Maryland
Patricia Stevens for Secretary Carolyn Scruggs, Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services
Rachel Thompson for Jill Ritter, Washington County State's Attorney's Office
Jacqueline Turner for Acting Secretary Rafael Lopez, Department of Human Services
Jeanne Yeager, Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence

Guests:

Stephanie Erdice, Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention Youth, and Victim Services Staff:

Rebecca Allyn, Melissa Bitting, Marianne Camino, Terri Ricks

I. Introductions and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Allyn conducted a roll call and guests introduced themselves.

II. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda contained the January 2023 Board meeting minutes and updates from the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services Updates: Ms. Allyn shared that Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Family Violence and Prevention Services (FVPS) grant, the Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) grant, and the Regional Navigator Program Grant (RNPG) will be posted within the next week. NOFAs for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant and the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant will come out later this spring. GOCPYVS is holding a technical assistance session on Friday, April 21 with VOCA subrecipients to provide information on PMT reporting, time and effort reporting, proportionality of funding and new receipt and expenditure requirements.

III. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Stevens made a motion to approve the consent agenda; Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the consent agenda was approved.

IV. Vacatur Hearing Discussion

The Vacatur Hearing Discussion will take place during the July meeting.

V. MSBVS Initiatives

- *2023 Crime Victims' Rights Week*

National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be held April 23-29, 2023. The 33rd Memorial Services for Crime Victims and Their Families will be hosted in person by the Calvert, Cecil, Montgomery and Wicomico County State's Attorneys' Offices on Sunday, April 23, 2023. The memorial service locations can be found at <http://goccp.maryland.gov/2023memorials/>.

The [2023 Maryland Crime Victims' Rights Conference](#) will be held on Thursday, April 27 from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at the Maryland Judicial Center in Annapolis. Virtual attendance via Zoom will be available. Conference topics include trafficking, serving LGBTQ+ victims, the address confidentiality program, public benefits for immigrant survivors, remote hearings for protective orders, financial abuse, truth in sentencing, and homicide survivors. The 2023 Governor's Victim Assistance Awards will be presented at the conference. The recipients of these awards are:

- Natasha Guynes, HER Resiliency Center, Henry Gleim Memorial Award
- Richard B. Hoffman, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Vincent Roper Memorial Award
- Secretary Susan Lee, Secretary of State, Virginia Mahoney Award

- *Maryland Victims of Crime (MVOC) Grant*

Ms. Allyn informed members that 57 grant applications were received for MVOC, and asked for volunteers to assist in reviewing. The anticipated timeline will be the first week of May, with two weeks to review.

- *Victim Response to Mass Violence Subcommittee*

The Board has assisted the Active Assailant Interdisciplinary Workgroup (AAIWG) with developing guidance for victim response for mass violence incidents and the Board provided input for the *Emergency People Search and Recovery Guidance* document. This document has now been renamed *Support Services for Mass Casualty Incidents: Guidance and Best Practices*. The workgroup is beginning to issue training on the guidance document, and the training date will be shared with members when available.

- *Victim/Witness Relocation Program*

Ms. Allyn provided an overview of the subcommittee's efforts with reviewing and providing recommendations on the guidelines for the victim and witness relocation and protection program. Members discussed two additional suggestions: add support animals and victims/witnesses with school-aged children. With these two suggestions being taken

into account, there was a motion for approval of the guideline recommendations. The recommendations will be formally submitted to the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association.

- *Online Victim Services Resources*

Ms. Allyn shared a request received to translate the Victims' Rights Brochures into Haitian Creole, and Portuguese. Members decided that it would be best to implement a policy for addressing such requests.

- *Crime Victim Notification and Demand For Rights Form*

Members discussed convening a meeting with relevant parties and stakeholders (State's Attorney's offices, courts, clerks, Department of Corrections, Department of Parole and Probation, Office of the Attorney General, Department of Juvenile Services) prior to the statewide MDEC implementation in order to update the forms and process for victim notification.

VI. Legislation

Members discussed victim services related legislation introduced during the 2023 Legislative Session.

- [HB 4/SB 129](#) - Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense
- [HB 3/SB 185](#) - Maryland State Police Gun Center – Firearms Surrendered Under Final Protective Orders
- [HB 630](#) - Utility Account Holders - Victims of Abuse - Protections
- [HB 411/SB 487](#) - Criminal Procedure – Violation of Pretrial or Post-Trial Condition
- [SB 292/HB 297](#) - Criminal Law - Victims of Child Sex Trafficking and Human Trafficking - Safe Harbor and Service Response
- [SB 148/HB 186](#) - Victim Services Programs – Supplementing Federal Funding and Support (Victim Services Stabilization Act)
- [SB 391/HB 174](#) - Criminal Procedure – Victims of Sexually Assaultive Behavior
- [HB 1171/SB 798](#) - Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Freedom
- [SB 615/HB 759](#) - Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services - Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kit Reporting Program

VII. Old/New Business

None at this time.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting ID: meet.google.com/yzi-sfxn-kcg

Phone Number: 1 401-541-5950

PIN: 442 502 598#